

Monroe Crossing Biography

Named in honor of Bill Monroe, "The Father of Bluegrass Music," Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their superb musicianship and on-stage rapport have entertained audiences across the United States, Canada and Europe.

Based in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, Monroe Crossing plays an average of 150 shows a year in intimate rooms, at major venues, and outdoor festivals. They are favorites among bluegrass connoisseurs and non-bluegrass audiences alike. They love introducing newcomers to bluegrass music!

Monroe Crossing is made up of five very distinct personalities with differing musical backgrounds. When combined, their individual histories make for a very unique ensemble sound. Band members are: Derek Johnson - guitar & lead vocals; Lisa Fuglie - fiddle, mandolin, guitar & lead vocals; Matt Thompson - mandolin, fiddle & harmony vocals; Mark Anderson - bass & bass vocals; and David Robinson - banjo, dobro, harmonica & harmony vocals. Because they met through the music of Bill Monroe, they like to say they had a "Monroe Crossing."

Among their many honors, Monroe Crossing was awarded "Bluegrass Album of the Year" by the Minnesota Music Academy in 2003. In 2007, they were inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. They have twice been selected to showcase at the annual "World of Bluegrass" convention hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) and they have appeared twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2016, Monroe Crossing will have the honor of being the first Minnesota bluegrass band to ever perform in South Korea.

Monroe Crossing has recorded 14 CDs to date. Their latest release, "Because You Asked," is a live collection of audience favorites. The second half of every Monroe Crossing show always features audience requests and their latest CD documents this tradition.

Whether playing traditional bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, original bluegrass, or even songs outside the bluegrass genre, Monroe Crossing is one of the most active and most entertaining acts on the bluegrass scene today!

Updated April 2015